A FERRULE HAVING FIRST AND SECOND BODY PORTIONS WITH DIFFERENT NOMINAL WIDTHS AND AN ASSOCIATED MOLD AND FABRICATION METHOD

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A ferrule is provided that has an exterior surface that can be defined with sufficient precision to serve as a datum during subsequent polishing operations. The ferrule includes first and second ferrule body portions that are joined along a parting line. The first ferrule body portion has a first width and the second ferrule body portion has a second width that is less than the first width, such as by at least 50 microns. In addition, the width of the first ferrule body portion is defined to be within a first tolerance, while the width of the second ferrule body is defined to be within a second tolerance that is larger than the first tolerance. As such, the first ferrule body portion is not only larger than the second ferrule body portion, but the first ferrule body portion is also more precisely defined. Thus, only one portion of the ferrule of the present invention needs to be precisely defined. A mold for forming the ferrule and a method of fabricating the ferrule are also provided.

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